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RADIO-DRIVEN AUTOMOBILE INTRODUCED; CAR PLANTS' EFFICIENCY PROGRESSES

ORDZHONIKIDZE PLANT BUILDS RADIO-DRIVEN AUTOMOBILE -- Rude Pravo, No 91, 17 Apr 49

In 1943, G. I. Babat, Stalin Prize winner, built the first model automobile to be driven by high-frequency radiation from beneath the asphalt roadway on which it was to run. At this time, the words "vechete" and "vechemobil'" were created. The first, which stands for the Russian letters "VChT," means "high-frequency current transport," and the second means "automobile powered by high-frequency current."

Experiments with this model were promising only in that the car actually ran on radio waves. In spring 1944, the Moscow Ordzhonikidze Machine-Building Plant announced the completion of a larger "vechemobil'," a 2-ton electric truck, which ran along an asphalt road. Technical results were poor, however, since the truck received only 4 percent of the high-frequency energy directed to it. Later, in cooperation with the Scientific Research Automobile and Motor Institute, Babat was able to reduce power losses by reducing the frequency of current used and redesigning the generators.

The "vechemobil'" must not be made of metal, since this constitutes another source of power loss. Development of this mode of transport will be very valuable, especially for use in mines, where sparks from ordinary electric trucks are a hazard. Streets traveled by the "vechemobil'" will be kept free of snow, since the high-frequency radiation will melt snow and ice.

MINSK AUTO PLANT INCREASES EFFICIENCY -- Sovetskaya Belorussiya, No 99, 20 May 49

The Minsk Automobile Plant has introduced a number of improvements to speed up the turnover of working capital, increase efficiency, and step up output.

A dispatching service has been set up which controls the movement of the output of the various shops and sections.

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A series of organizational and technical undertakings are in progress which will shorten the technological cycle for the production of automobiles by an estimated 30 percent. At present, 20 operations are done by high-speed metal cutting in Chassis Shop No 1. In Chassis Shop No 2, 42 operations will be switched to this method.

Precision casting of parts is to be introduced, and 30 different parts will be made by this process. Production of parts is also being switched from universal machines to multipurpose machines, which are set up for continuous production. This method shortens the time necessary to manufacture a front axle torque bar from 152 minutes to 47.

Introduction of an organizational and technical plan has decreased by 115.9 hours the labor necessary to produce an automobile, saving 55.65 hours in the pressing shop, 15.84 hours in Chassis Shop No 2, and 15.27 hours during assembly.

During 1949, a new wrought-iron shop, heat-treatment shop, main conveyor, and a drawing shop will be put into operation.

A system of transferrable stock supplies has been set up whereby each shop and section is guaranteed the necessary basic and auxiliary materials and supplies. The reserve is never allowed to drop below the amount necessary for 10 days.

The plant's workers have pledged to complete the 1949 plan by 5 December, to speed up the turnover of working capital by 10 days, to release 2.6 million rubles to the State, to raise labor productivity by 34.2 percent over the 1948 figure, to lower labor consumption by 20 percent, and to reduce production cost by 18 percent.

NEW TRUCKS TESTED -- Moskovskiy Bol'shevik, No 122, 26 May 49

On 25 May, two new 7-ton Diesel-powered YaAZ-200 trucks began a test run over the Moscow-Tbilisi-Batumi-Krasnodar-Moscow route. The trucks, one of which is hauling a trailer with a capacity of 6 tons, will be tested under various road conditions.

VLADIMIR PLANT PRODUCES UNIVERSAL TRACTORS - Komsomol'skaya Pravda, No 49, 1 Mar 49

The Vladimir Tractor Plant is producing Universal tractors for forest preserve stations in the Transvolga, Kuban, and Kharkov areas.

KUTAISI AUTO PLANT CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES -- Kommunist, No 113, 15 May 49

Construction of the assembly shop, as well as other basic shops, of the Kutaisi Automobile Plant is nearing completion.

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